

March 22, 2018

U.S. House Committee on Energy & Commerce
ATTN: Rep. Greg Walden, Chairman
and Rep. Gregg Harper, Chairman,
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC 20515-6115

RE: Information Request on Availability of Sexual Assault Forensic Exams at U.S. Hospitals

Dear Chairman Walden:

Thank you for inviting Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center to provide information to the House Energy & Commerce Committee as they investigate availability of sexual assault forensic exams at hospitals across the United States.

Saint Alphonsus commits significant resources and actively partners with other private & public entities to ensure that victims of sexual assault are treated with utmost dignity and provided compassionate, competent, comprehensive care and additional resources as needed.

Below we provide answers to the questions we received from the Committee:

1. Does Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center employ SANE or SAFE certified medical professionals?
 - **Yes. We have a community-based SAFE team that employs nurses from both major hospital systems in Ada County. This means that a victim in our community will have the same level of care offered at any of our four Emergency Departments or the free-standing FACES of Hope victim center.**
2. If Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center does employ SANES,
 - a. When did Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center begin employing SANES?
 - **2001**
 - b. How many SANES or SAFEs does Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center employ?
 - **6-10**

- c. How were SANEs trained?
- Each SANE is required to complete an International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN) recognized Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) course, which is 40-42 hours. The nurse then follows a preceptor who is already a SANE nurse, and their orientation typically takes 4-6 months. Orientation includes additional classes and training, i.e. domestic violence, trauma-informed care, toxicology, etc. Each nurse is also required to spend time with law enforcement, attend court, and spend time with an advocate. Within 2-3 years our nurses are asked to successfully complete the SANE-A certification exam.
- d. During what days and hours are SANEs available at the Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center?
- The SANE team takes call and is available 24 hours daily, 365 days a year.
- e. Is Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center listed on the IAFN database?
- Yes
- f. What is the annual cost of administering the SANE Program at Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center? Please explain what is covered by this cost, such as the cost of SANE Training, SANE salaries, and victim services. Please provide the cost for 2017, 2016, and 2015.
- There are no training expenses in the SANE Budget at this time. This budget does include a full-time SANE Coordinator.
- | | | |
|--------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| FY15: | Wages and Benefits - | \$177,284.00 |
| | Supplies & Misc. Costs - | \$ 3,644.00 |
| | Total Expenses - | \$180,928.00 |
| FY16: | Wages and Benefits - | \$185,899.00 |
| | Supplies & Misc. Costs - | \$ 3,644.00 |
| | Total Expenses - | \$189,543.00 |
| FY17: | Wages and Benefits - | \$185,990.00 |
| | Supplies & Misc. Costs - | \$ 2,582.00 |
| | Total Expenses - | \$188,572.00 |
- g. What grants, if any, has Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center applied for or accepted to fund any programs related to the training of SANE's or treatment of sexual assault victims.
- **\$75,000.00** - Initial grant to start our program came from Saint Alphonsus Women's Philanthropic Healthcare Fund. This provided

initial training of the first group of SANEs and the cost of the colposcope. (2000)

- **\$14,182.00** – Grant received from Idaho Council on Domestic Violence & Victim Assistance (ICDVVA) for training for SANE nurses. This included ongoing and initial training of SANEs. (2004/2005)
- **\$3,833.19** – Grant received from Saint Alphonsus Women's Healthcare Fund to send 3 SANE's to IAFN National Conference. (2016)
- **\$3,122.92** – Funded as part of a Grant to FACES of Hope from ICDVVA. This sent two nurses to IAFN National Conference held in Toronto, Canada. (2017)

3. If Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center does not employ SANEs, does Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center provide rape kits by non-SANEs?
 - **Not applicable**
4. If a sexual assault victim comes to Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center requesting treatment and/or a rape kit following an assault, what procedures are in place at Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center to treat that victim?
 - **We have a policy and protocols in place for this situation. The first priority is ensuring that the victim does not need medical intervention emergently. Medical needs always take priority over forensic needs. Law enforcement and SANE are notified. Options are explained to the victim. Prophylaxis against Gonorrhea and Chlamydia is offered if the victim elects not to have a forensic exam, as well as pregnancy prophylaxis. If a victim chooses to have a forensic exam, the victim may choose to have forensic exam at the hospital Emergency Department or at our off-site facility (FACES of Hope Victim Center). The majority of our exams are at FACES of Hope location.**
5. Does Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center track any data on sexual assault, such as the number of sexual assault victims treated each year, how many rape kits are requested and how many rape kits are completed?
 - **Yes – we track all of the above, including information on all SANE calls involving sexual assault. Data points include: (1) Time/day of week; (2) Exam given or declined; (3) If strangulation and/or alcohol involved; (4) Gender and age; (5) Police agency or jurisdiction involved; (6) Insurance status (FACES not reimbursed by government payer sources). (7) Kit number associated with patient. All victims that request a forensic exam will have an exam completed.**

We track the number of victims that decline an exam after options are explained.

Hopefully the above information is helpful to your investigation of this issue. If you have questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact our SAFE Coordinator, Cynthia Cook, RN, BSN, SANE-A, at (208)577-4420 or Cynthia.a.cook@saintalphonsus.org, or contact me at (208)367-7078 or corey.surber@saintalphonsus.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Corey Surber".

Corey Surber, MHS
Director of State Advocacy
Saint Alphonsus / Trinity Health

cc:

Odette Bolano, CEO, Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center
Cynthia Cook, RN, BSN, SANE-A, SAFE Coordinator